

PATENT
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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Original claims 1-20 remain in the application.

Claims 1, 2 and 13 have been rejected.

Claims 3-12 and 14-20 have been objected to for depending from a rejected claim.

Claims 1, 2 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wecke et al. (5,946,342).

With respect to independent claims 1 and 13, the Examiner has suggested that Wecke et al. teaches a linear motion compensator having a hollow housing 1 adapted to be connected to an input device 6 and an output device 4 and a stroke compensator 8 (comprising of 8, 11a, 13a and 17). Element 8 is defined by Wecke as a switch jack and elements 11a, 13a and 17 are features of the switch jack. In Column 2, lines 28-31, Wecke states, "In the embodiments, reference number 1 in each case indicates a safety switch as a whole which, within a switch cover 2, is provided with a tappet 3 which carries a switching bridge 4." The Examiner has further indicated that the stroke compensator (switch jack 8) receives a linear motion from the input device (actuator 6) and transmits a linear motion to the output device (switching bridge 4). In Column 2, lines 35-39, Wecke states "In FIGS. 1 and 4, the tappet 3 is in each case displaced in the switch-on direction into the switch cover 2 by a bow-type actuator 6 which can be inserted through an insertion opening 7 into the switch cover 2 and which presses on the tappet 3 against the effect of the spring 5." Therefore, the linear motion provided by the actuator 6 is applied directly to the tappet 3, not the switch jack 8, as suggested by the Examiner. Since the switch jack 8 does not receive "a first particular length of linear motion from said input device" it can not be "transmitting to said output device a second particular length of linear motion" as required in claim 1, or "converting said first particular length of linear movement to said second particular length of linear movement" as required in claim 13. Further, since the tappet 3 carries the switching bridge 4, any linear motion applied directly to tappet 3 by the actuator 6 is also applied directly to the switching bridge 4.

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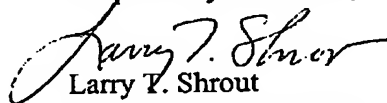
The Examiner has also suggested that "portion 17 of the compensator 8 causes the second length of motion 'not equal' to the first." Wecke states in Column 3, lines 48-54, that the spring-loaded detent cam 18 engages the detent recess 17 to secure the switch in the OFF position when the actuator 6 is removed. Therefore, the engagement of the detent cam 18 with detent recess 17 does not take place until the actuator 6 is at the point of disengaging the tappet 3. At this point linear travel of the tappet 3 has stopped and the tappet is at its final position as shown in Figures 5 and 6. Detent recess 17 and detent cam 18 in Figs. 4-6 perform the same function as the ball lock detent 14 and the unnumbered detent recess in the tappet 3 shown in Figs. 1-3.

For the reasons stated above, as discussed with Examiner Lee on July 10, 2006, there is no teaching or suggestion in Wecke that the switch jack 8 causes, or is intended to cause, any change in stroke length between the actuator 6 and the switching bridge 4. Therefore, Wecke does not meet the requirements for a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102, of independent claims 1 and 13.

Since claims 2-12 are dependent from claim 1 and claims 14-20 are dependent from claim 13, they are also allowable.

In reply to the Office Action dated April 24, 2006, and as discussed in the interview of July 10, 2006, between Examiner Lee and Larry Shout, the arguments presented herein are believed to overcome the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection of claims 1, 2 and 13. Applicants believe all pending claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request a favorable reconsideration and allowance of this Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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